

OFFICE OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER OMBUDS

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The Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds is an independent, nonpartisan support office that advises the House on best practices for working with whistleblowers from the public and private sectors. All inquiries are treated confidentially.



WHISTLEBLOWERS AND CONGRESS

Whistleblowers, those who disclose threats to the public interest, commonly contact Congress to expose wrongdoing and to seek support. Further, Congress' oversight work relies on vital disclosures from federal workers as well as private sector employees. In turn, offices need the tools to effectively work with whistleblowers—from the initial screening stage to resulting oversight.

GENERAL AND PRIVATE TRAININGS

The Office offers an interactive, 60-minute training on best practices for working with whistleblowers. It is the foundation of the Working With Whistleblowers Learning Path, available through the Staff Academy. Member offices and committees may also request private sessions for an informal Q&A and customized content.

Participants receive a manual and model materials on how to:

- Manage relationships with whistleblowers
- Establish an effective case management system
- Protect whistleblower information
- Navigate the legal landscape

CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATIONS

The Office can provide confidential consultations to assist House Member offices and committees in responding to whistleblowers. The Office can also provide technical guidance on whistleblower legislation. *Note: The Office cannot receive disclosures from whistleblowers.*

INTAKE PROCESSES

The Office is available to help Member offices and committees establish:

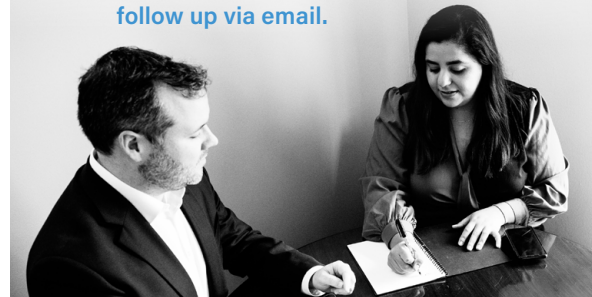
- Whistleblower intake procedures
- Best practices for follow-up
- Guidelines to maintain confidentiality
- Systems to keep disclosures secure



The Office is a great resource for an under-appreciated part of our jobs serving constituents in often tricky matters.



The advice was specific for the whistleblower situation our office encountered versus a one size fits all approach. Appreciated that [the staff] listened and asked lots of questions and provided quick follow up via email.



2021 SURVEY DATA

58% of survey respondents work on **Capitol Hill** and 42% work for a **District Office**.

Since interacting with the Office:

- Nearly 90% have **more confidence** working with whistleblowers
- Nearly 40% of offices have **strengthened intake processes**